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GARGOYLES™

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CONNER + PALMIOTTI '95

The Lady is a VAMP!

THE LIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE NIGHTCLUB THROB STRONGLY, IN CONTRAST TO THE RAPIDLY FAILING PULSE OF HER DYING CAPTIVE...

SACRILEGE- A PERFECT NAME FOR THE SEAMY LOWER EAST SIDE CLUB THAT CATERS TO VICTIMIZERS AND VICTIMS...

SHE HAD BEEN ABUSED HERE... NOW, SHE'S AN ABUSER!

AS ANOTHER HEART BEATS ITS LAST, SHE LOSES INTEREST IN THE CORPSE AND HER ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO A COMMOTION ON THE PACKED DANCE FLOOR...

YO, BABY! I SEEN YOU HERE A LOT! YOU MUST LIKE WHAT YA SEE!

C'MERE! LET'S MAKE FRIENDS! I'M JOCKO AND THESE ARE M' BOYS!

THE WOMAN BELOW... WILL SHE BE A VICTIM, TOO?

LISTEN, JERKO, I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO... LIKE, GET A ROOT CANAL!

.... MABBE WE CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT, TOO!

OUCH! ELISA SAID I MIGHT GET IN OVER MY HEAD AND THIS LOOKS LIKE IT!

WHERE YA GOIN'?!

YOU DON' WANNA DIS US NOW, CHICK!

BETH MAZA ISN'T USED TO THIS DOWNTOWN ENVIRONMENT, WHERE DANGER CAN REAR ITS HEAD ANYWHERE, ANYTIME...

HEY! IF I WANTED TO GET HASSLED, I COULD'VE STAYED HOME WITH MY SISTER!

C'MON, BOYS...

GET HER!

GET LOST! OOOF!

PLOOOSSHH!

SNIK!

HEH, HEH! HOW NICE OF YOU TO COME OUT INTO THIS CONVENIENT, DARK ALLEY!

I THOUGHT WE COULD BE GOOD FRIENDS, BUT NOBODY DISSES JOCKO AND THE BOYS!

FROM THE PERSONAL DIARY OF DETECTIVE SECOND CLASS, ELISA MAZA, N.Y.P.D.:

WOOOOSSSSSH!!

I vainly tried to warn her about the HAZARDS of this unique city but sometimes you have to get burned ALL on your own. So, despite my admonitions, guess what?

INCREDIBLE... ONE OF THE GARGOYLES

OH MY...

BLOOD FROM A STONE

MARTIN PASKO & MORT TODD story

MORT TODD dialogue

AMANDA CONNER pencils

ALBERTO SAICHANN inks

ANTHONY TOLLIN colors

JOHN COSTANZA letters

HILDY MESNIK editor

OOOF! IFF

KRAAK!

PTAK!

GAAAHH

. . . Beth got in TROUBLE! Good thing I made sure she had a GUARDIAN ANGEL named BROADWAY on patrol!

BETH! I...

OH, NO! IT KNOWS MY NAME?!

I MUST'VE GOTTEN DOSED! I'M SEEING THINGS!

TAXI!!!!

SHE'LL GET HOME SAFELY NOW...

HER REACTION TO ME WASN'T TOO ENTHUSIASTIC. IT'D BE GREAT IF I COULD FIND A FRIEND LIKE GOLIATH HAS WITH ELIS--

EXCUSE ME...

I SAW WHAT YOU DID. I THOUGHT IT WAS MAGNIFICENT!

YOU SEE, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED TO ME HERE ONCE. I WISH I HAD YOUR HELP THEN.

I-- I'M SORRY!

WH-- WHAT ARE YOU? ARE YOU A... GARGOYLE?

MY NAME IS LAVONNE... I'M NOT A GARGOYLE, THOUGH I AM LIKE YOU IN MANY WAYS!

BUT, IF YOU'RE NOT A GARGOYLE, THEN--

I'LL TELL YOU, BUT LET'S GET AWAY FROM THIS PLACE FIRST.

OKAY. UM, I'M BROADWAY. UH, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO SOMEWHERE... AND EAT?

I JUST ATE...

OH.

... BUT, I'M ALWAYS HUNGRY AND I WOULD LIKE TO GO SOMEWHERE WITH YOU!

THAT'S FUNNY. I'M ALWAYS HUNGRY TOO! THEY MAKE FUN OF ME ALL THE TIME!

I'D NEVER LAUGH AT YOU, BROADWAY! I KNOW HOW TOUGH IT CAN BE TO FIGHT THE HUNGER!

IS THIS WHERE WE'RE GOING?

YEP! I'M KINDA PARTIAL TO THIS EATERY'S TASTE IN ARCHITECTURE!

...AND THE BURGERS AREN'T BAD, EITHER! SLURRP!!

... AND THEN SHE FILLED ME UP WITH PEROGIES! IF MY FRIENDS HADN'T SHOWED UP, I WOULD'VE TRIED SOME LATKES... WHATEVER THEY ARE!

I'M GOING TO MAKE IT A PERSONAL GOAL TO TRY THEM SOMEDAY!

... TILL THEN, THIS PIZZA'S DOIN' JUST FINE!

WILL YOU BE ABLE TO GET AIRBORNE AFTER TAKING ON ALL THAT MASS?!

ODD HOW PEOPLE NEVER ASK US TO PAY FOR THE FOOD, EH, LAVONNE? THEY SEEM PERFECTLY HAPPY TO JUST HEAP IT ON AND SEE US ON OUR MERRY WAY!

I'VE BEEN DOING ALL THE YAKKING! YOU SAID YOU'D TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, LAVONNE...

WELL, THERE'S NOT M--- UHHHNNN!

OOOOOHH!

WHAT'S---

LAVONNE!

LAVONNE! ARE YOU---

F-FINE! I'M FINE, BROADWAY!

JUST A DIZZY SPELL! FELT LIKE MOMENTARY VERTIGO!

IT'S MY FAULT! I STUFFED YOU WITH ALL THAT FOOD!

NO, I'M OKAY NOW. BUT IT'S ALMOST DAWN!

THIS WAS A WONDERFUL NIGHT! I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BROADWAY! I THINK WE CAN BE VERY GOOD FRIENDS! WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON!

YEAH, FEASTIN' AN' FLYIN'!

WILL YOU MEET ME HERE, TONIGHT? PLEASE SAY YOU *WILL*, BROADWAY!

UH, *SURE!* OKAY, IT'S A... A *DATE!*

DOH! WHY DID I SAY "DATE?!" *AM I RUSHING* THINGS?!

It was nearly sunrise and a pre-morning dew clung to the crime scene. SACRILEGE again. This place is a MURDER MAGNET.

I was MAD then, but NOT as mad as I would've been if I had known BETH was at the club at the time of the HOMICIDE!

SO WHATTA WE GOT *THIS* TIME?

I.D.'ED AS MELVIN ALTO... SMALL-TIME HOOD WITH *XANATOS* CONNECTIONS.

REMEMBER HEARING HE SUFFERED *BAD* FROM *VERTIGO!*

IS THAT WHAT *KILLED* HIM?

HARDLY! THAT DROP FROM THE WINDOW WOULD'VE *SCARED* HIM... IF HE WAS *ALIVE* WHEN HE FELL. FIRST, HE WAS *SLASHED*... *AND THEN DRAINED OF* ALL BLOOD!

WHAT?! ARE YOU TELLING ME WE HAVE A *VAMPIRE* ON THE LOOSE?!

... COULD BE! OR A BLOODSUCKING *GARGOYLE*, MAYBE! *HAW HAW!*

Behind me I heard the sound of wings on the wind, but I DARED not look! The sun would soon break... how could a Gargoyle be out NOW?

I was afraid there was an EMERGENCY, but when I looked later, I saw NO sign of ANY Gargoyle!

THERE'S A *PSYCHO* ON THE LOOSE AND YOU'RE TALKING *GARGOYLES* AND *VAMPIRES!* CALL ME IF YOU GET ANY LEADS!

MOMENTARILY PERCHING ACROSS THE ALLEY, LAVONNE RETURNS TO THE SCENE OF HER CRIME.

TO HER, IT WAS A JUST CRIME. SHE HAD LOST HER WORLD BECAUSE OF DRACON AND XANATOS! SHE GOT A SMALL PIECE OF REVENGE WITH THE DEATH OF MELVIN ALTO. AND WITH THAT REVENGE CAME MORE AWARENESS!

WAS IT *ONLY* A FEW DAYS AGO? IT SEEMS A *LIFETIME* AGO THAT I WAS SILLY, LITTLE LAVONNE...

I HAD *NO* DIRECTION IN LIFE... NO IDEA WHERE I WAS *GOING*! MY FUTURE WAS DECIDED *FOR* ME THAT NIGHT AT *SACRILEGE*...

NO! *PRICE!*

PAINFUL IMAGES *SEAR* THROUGH LAVONNE'S TORTURED *BRAIN*! IT REPEATS OVER AND OVER... THE CRACK OF GUN-FIRE THAT RIPS THROUGH HER BOYFRIEND*...

*AS SEEN IN *GARGOYLES* #2... HOMICIDAL HILDY.

THERE, THE INSIDIOUS DR. PHOBOS PUTS HER THROUGH A BATTERY OF CRUEL TESTS AND PREPARATIONS...

INTRODUCE THE SOLUTION TO THE SUBJECT. IT'S NEVER WORKED *YET*, BUT MAYBE THE MATURATION OF THE FORMULA WILL *ENHANCE* ITS EFFECTS!

GET RID OF IT, BOYS... YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

SAME AS THE *OTHERS*... *FOOD FOR THE FISHIES!*

BUT AS SHE WAS TAKEN OUT TO SEA TO BE DUMPED, THE MOON ROSE FULL IN THE SKY. HER COLD BODY STIRRED... AND AWOKE TO A NEW UN-LIFE!

SINCE SHE HAD SEEN TOO MUCH, SHE WAS SENT TO THE SECRET GEN-U-TECH LAB TO BE USED AS A HUMAN GUINEA PIG!

AFTER BEING INJECTED WITH THE FOUL FORMULA, LAVONNE IS IRRADIATED IN A BATH OF THANA-RAYS. PHOBOS HAS TRIED TO CREATE A HUMAN VAMPIRE, ONE THAT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY ATTRACTIVE TO THE GARGOYLES!

THE VAMPIRE WOULD SEDUCE A GARGOYLE, DRAINING IT OF BLOOD AND RETURN TO GEN-U-TECH WITH THE SAMPLES FOR EXPERIMENTATION.

THE DEADLY RAYS TWIST AND CONTORT LAVONNE TO HER VERY SOUL. IN SECONDS, HER GENETIC MAKE-UP MUTATES AND HER FIGURE CONVULSES AS SHE SPROUTS TALONS, FANGS AND WINGS!

FINALLY, SHE SLUMPS OVER... BY ALL DEFINITIONS, DEAD, THE EXPERIMENT A FAILURE...

I SLAUGHTERED HIM... AND DRANK HIS BLOOD, WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT! WH-WHAT HAVE I BECOME?!

I-I'VE BECOME POWERFUL! AND AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH, NO ONE WILL PUSH ME AROUND AGAIN! THE PEOPLE WHO KILLED PRICE... AND ME, WILL PAY WITH THEIR BLOOD!

THE FLAWED FORMULA HAD WORKED, BUT HAD SIDE EFFECTS. WITH EACH ATTACK, LAVONNE TOOK MORE THAN THE VICTIM'S ESSENCE... SHE GAINED SNIPPETS OF MEMORIES, KNOWLEDGE... AND RECENTLY, VERTIGO.

SHE HAD LATENT DESIRES FOR GARGOYLE BLOOD, BUT SHE WAS NOT UNDER GEN-U-TECH'S CONTROL... SHE WAS THEIR ENEMY!

ENOUGH REMINISCING... MY OLD LIFE IS GONE!

MY EXISTENCE WILL BE WHOLE... TONIGHT!

I didn't get home until late afternoon and Beth was STILL in her P.J.'s. She told me about her FUN night at Sacrilege and her WINGED ATTACKER!

OH, ELISA, IT WAS A BIG, HORRIBLE, TUBBY, GREEN BAT-THING!

WHEW! THEN IT WAS JUST *BROADWAY*-- NOT THE "VAMPIRE KILLER!"

WHAT KIND OF CREEPY CLUB *WAS* THAT? WHY DIDN'T YOU, LIKE, *WARN* ME?

WARN YOU? WHAT *MORE* COULD I DO? *CHAIN YOU UP?* LOOK, I'VE *TRIED* TO BE A NICE SISTER, NOT A *HARPY*, BUT *YOU* WOULDN'T *LISTEN!*

THERE YOU *GO*, TREATING ME LIKE A *KID* AGAIN! I JUST WANT TO *LIVE MY LIFE!*

FINE! LIVE IT! JUST DON'T GET *KILLED* DOING IT! I'VE GOT TO GET SOME SLEEP AND BE UP IN A FEW HOURS, SO IF YOU'RE *GONNA* LIVE IT UP... DO IT *QUIETLY!*

Beth was gone when I woke, and I had to WORK. I figured SACRILEGE would be a good place to STAKE OUT the "VAMPIRE MURDERER". Sure enough, GLASSES showed up...

...Even with his corrective lenses, he didn't realize he had TWO ladies eyeballing him.

... At the time, neither did I!

NOW *WHAT* COULD A HOOD OF TONY DRACON'S BE UP TO IN THAT ALLEY? WE HAVE HIM TIED TO THE *MURDER* HERE LAST WEEK*...

*AGAIN, IN ISH #2— *MURDER MAVEN MESNIK*

... COULD HE BE RETURNING TO THE SCENE OF THE *CRIME?*

... IS THE POPE CATHOLIC?

But before I could find out...

SKREEEE

FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD---

DEMONA?!

YOU! YOU WERE ONE OF PRICE'S KILLERS! YOU LEFT ME TO DIE... AND WORSE!

NOW, YOU WILL SUFFER! SLOWLY, PAINFULLY, LIKE I DID!

NOT DEMONA, BUT OUR MYSTERIOUS VAMPIRE KILLER! AND SHE'S TIED IN WITH THAT KID WHO GOT SHOT HERE!

NO! GET OFF ME!

POLICE! CAN'T LET YOU DO IT, LADY!

HSSSS

I'VE WATCHED YOU! YOU WERE NO HELP WHEN PRICE WAS KILLED, AND YOU'RE NO HELP NOW!

WHAKK

THIS WITCH IS BUGGIN'!

DON'T THINK YOU'RE SAFE... QUITE THE OPPOSITE! I'LL BE WATCHING... WAITING TO MAKE YOU SUFFER!

FREEZE, TWO EYES!

WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?

IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO CHARGE ME WITH, TAKE ME IN! I'M A VICTIM OF AN ASSAULT!

START TALKING!

THEN I'LL DRAIN YOU SLOWLY, WHILE YOU'RE CONSCIOUS! YOU, THE COP... AND THE GARGOYLES!

ASSAULT?!

YOU SEEM FINE, CONSIDERING THE FRAGILE SKELETON YOU HUMANS SPORT!

I SUGGEST YOU ANSWER THE YOUNG LADY'S QUESTIONS!

GARGOYLES?! EVERYONE'S TALKIN' GARGOYLES!

WHAT'S SHE GETTING AT?

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, GOLIATH. YOUR TIMING COULD'VE BEEN A LITTLE BETTER... YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN WHAT JUST BOLTED OUT OF HERE!

OUR OLD FRIEND HERE SEEMS TO KNOW HER... PERHAPS HE CAN FILL IN THE DETAILS?

...WELL?

HOW?

TURNED HER OVER TO XANATOS' MEN! HEARD THEY DID SOME EXPERIMENTS ON HER THAT TURNED HER INTO A BLOODSUCKER!

SHE WAS SOME FLUFF HANGING OUT WITH A DUDE THAT CROSSED US! SHE SAW THE HIT AND WE HAD TO TAKE CARE OF HER!

I-- I THINK IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOU MONST--- GUYS!

AND AT THE GARGOYLES' ROOST...

LOOKIN' GOOD, BABE!

YOO HOO, PRETTY BOY!

TELL US YOUR BEAUTY TIPS! IS EATING MASS QUANTITIES OF *CHEESEBURGERS* YOUR SECRET?

SHE SHARES YOUR *INTERESTS*... DOES SHE SHARE YOUR *WAIST SIZE*, TOO, LOVER BOY?

CUT IT *OUT*, GUYS! THIS IS THE *FIRST* TIME I'VE MET A FEMALE THAT ACTUALLY *LIKES* ME!

A SLIGHT WORD O'WARNIN' IS DUE, M'LAD! WHAT DO YOU *REALLY* KNOW ABOUT THIS LASS? THINGS ARE NOT *ALWAYS* WHAT THEY SEEM IN THIS NEW WORLD... ESPECIALLY WITH BONNIE *FEMALES!*

DON'T WORRY, HUDSON! ONCE YOU *MEET* HER, YOU'LL SEE SHE COULDN'T HURT A *FLY!*

IT'S *NAY* FLY I'M WORRIED ABOUT, LADDIE...

...BUT THE *HEART* OF A FLYING *GARGOYLE!*

WHILE THE YOUNG ONES HAVE THEIR FLIGHTS OF FANCY, WE OLD FOLKS STILL HAVE OUR FAITHFUL *TV*, EH, BRONX?!

GRRRF?

ONE CAN *ALWAYS* COUNT ON IT TO SOOTHE OUR *FRAZZLED*-- HUH?

WE INTERRUPT THE *LOU GRANT SHOW* TO BRING YOU THIS *SPECIAL REPORT*...

... EARLIER REPORTS OF A VICIOUS *SERIAL MURDERER* HAVE BEEN *CONFIRMED!*

THE LATEST VICTIM, LIKE THE REST, HAD BEEN *COMPLETELY* DRAINED OF BLOOD, SUGGESTING A *VAMPIRE KILLER!*

THIS FOLLOWS CONTINUED SIGHTINGS OF *FLYING FIGURES* ALL OVER MANHATTAN!

PHOBOS!

DAILY SNOOZ

TOOTHY TERROR IN N.Y.

Vampire in the Village

I'M NOT ONE TO LOSE MY TEMPER, BUT THE INCREASING SECURITY BREACHES ON YOUR ISLAND ARE BEGINNING TO IRK ME!

... AND THIS *VAMPIRE* SMACKS OF GEN-U-TECH PRODUCT, NO?

ER... *YES!*

YOU RECALL THE FAILED *PROJECT NOSFERATU*? WELL, IT *WASN'T* A TOTAL FAILURE!

THE TEST SUBJECT WAS ACCIDENTLY RELEASED!

IF IT DOESN'T FOLLOW ITS PRIME DIRECTIVE, THERE COULD BE *SERIOUS* RAMIFICATIONS!

RIGHT NOW MY MAIN CONCERN IS THE *MEDUSA PROJECT*! SEE THAT IT IS A *SUCCESS*!

PERHAPS GEN-U-TECH DESERVES SOME *PERSONAL* ATTENTION!

POMPOUS FOOL!

AND, AFTER BROADWAY AND LAVONNE RENDEZVOUS...

DESPITE *ALL* MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR XANATOS, HE *ALWAYS* PUSHES ME FOR *MORE*. HE'LL HAVE HIS *BLASTED* MEDUSA DEVICE AND IT WILL *EXCEED* HIS EXPECTATIONS!

BUT IF IT *SHOULD* FAIL, AND XANATOS *TIRES* OF MY SERVICES... I HAVE *YOU*, MY BEAUTY!

SOON IT WILL BE TIME FOR YOU TO ENTER THIS WORLD.... AND THERE WILL BE *NO MERCY* FOR ANYONE WHO STANDS IN *MY WAY*!

THAT'S OUR ROOST UP AHEAD! I HOPE YOU *LIKE MY* FRIENDS!

I'M *POSITIVE* I'LL FIND THEM AS IRRESISTIBLE AS *YOU*!

HEY, GUYS!

HEY, WHO CARES?!

MY NAME'S BROOKLINGTON AND THIS IS BLEXLYN! ER, I MEAN...

BROOKLYN AND LEXING-TON! BROAD-WAY TOLD ME ABOUT YOU!

IS BRONX FRIENDLY?

GRRRRR

SAY "HI" TO LAVONNE!

WHOA! SHE'S GOT WINGS!

HUBBA HUBBA!

SHE'S A BABE ALERT--B-BUT HOW...WHAT...?

SURE! HIS BARK IS WORSE THAN HIS BITE!

BROADWAY! A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME, LAD!

HERE, BOY!

RRRRRR

OH!

GRRAARRNNK

SORRY! HE USUALLY GETS ALONG WITH MOST FOLKS!

GRRHMMMPH!

C'MON, GUYS! LET'S. FLY WHILE THE NIGHT IS YOUNG!

DO THESE GUYS HAVE TO COME?

BROADWAY! THEY'RE YOUR FRIENDS!

HEY! WATCH IT, HOT SHOT! YOU ALMOST CLIPPED ME WHEN YOU ZOOMED PAST!

WELL, IF YOU'D STAY IN THE SLOW LANE, YOU WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT IN MY BACKWASH!

AAAH, YOU'RE BOTH PIKERS COMPARED TO MY AERIAL EXCELLENCE!

PLAS!

@#&*!

WHAT IS IT, PLAS... COPS?!

NO, IT... IT--

I GOT HIM!

NO, ME!

OH, NO! HOLD ON!

OH @#&*! I'M DEAD!

OUTTA THE WAY!

BUT BEFORE THE GARRULOUS GARGOYLES CAN ACT, A FIGURE SLICES PAST THEM ON A COLD DRAFT...

LAVONNE IS HAVING FUN WITH THE TRIO AND FEELS A SENSE OF BELONGING SHE NEVER FELT IN HER SHORT, EMPTY LIFE...

BUT HER ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO HIS SOFT EXPOSED NECK, IGNITING A NAKED HUNGER IN HER...

HIS WARM BLOOD... SO CLOSE...

LAVONNE!

YOU SAVED HIM! THAT'S GREAT!

Y-YES... I DID!

THAT WAS COOL, LAVONNE!

YEAH, BUT I COULD'VE GOT HIM IF SOMEONE WASN'T IN MY FLIGHT PATH!

WH-WHAT WAS THAT?!

HELP ME, PAL! I'M FEELIN' WOOZY!

SHE RESCUES THE FALLING TAGGER WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

HEY! REMEMBER, LAVONNE IS *MY* FRIEND!

SINCE *WHEN* DID SHE SIGN AN EX-CLUSIVE DEAL WITH *YOU*?

YOU'RE JUST *JEALOUS*! WHY DON'T YOU GUYS *SPLIT*?

WHAKKK

WATCH IT, YOU *LUMMOX*--- OOF!

AW, YA SHOULDN'T'A OUGHTTA *DONE* THAT, DOC!

YOU *WHACKED* ME IN THE *BEAK*!

SWOOOOP

HUH? I DIDN'T MEAN---

BOYS, *PLEASE*!

CAREFUL, BROOKLYN! HE DUCKED AND YOU'RE GONNA HIT *M*--- OOOFF!

OOOH! THAT'S *GOTTA* HURT!

NNNNNN

PWAP!

P-KWAAAAA!!

BROADWAY... LET'S *LEAVE* THEM! IT'S *YOU* I WANT TO BE *ALL ALONE* WITH!

UH, *OKAY!* I CAN'T SEEM TO SAY *NO* TO YOU!

BOY, SHE HAD *SOME EFFECT* ON US!

FOR SUCH *GOOD BUDDIES*, WE SURE WERE ACTING LIKE *JERKS*.

YEAH, I FELT LIKE I COULDN'T *CONTROL* MYSELF AROUND HER!

SHOULD WE GO AFTER THEM?

NO. SHE'S BROADWAY'S FRIEND... LET'S JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE.

LATER, AS MANY IN THE CITY ARE FAST ASLEEP, WORK IS NOT DONE FOR DAVID XANATOS...

THIS BETTER BE AN *IMPORTANT* PROGRESS REPORT, *PHOBOS!*

INDEED, SIR! THE MEDUSA DEVICE IS READY FOR *INITIAL TESTING!*

EXCELLENT! PREPARE A PROTOTYPE FOR *IMMEDIATE* DELIVERY! ANY PROGRESS ON THE *WEAPONS PILFERING?*

NO, SIR, BUT SECURITY HAS BEEN *INTENSIFIED!*

THAT WILL BE ALL. NOTIFY ME WHEN EVERYTHING IS *READY!*

PHOBOS HASN'T MENTIONED HIS GARGOYLE CELLULAR REPRODUCTION PROJECT IN A *WHILE*...

... COULD HE BE *HIDING* SOMETHING? I'VE LET *TOO* MUCH SLIDE WITH GEN-U-TECH. I FEEL A VISIT TO THE ISLAND IS IN *MY* FUTURE...

AND AS AN EVIL MAN FALLS INTO THE SLEEP OF THE CONTENTED...

... ANOTHER KIND OF EVIL AWAKENS ELSEWHERE!

BROADWAY, COME NEAR TO ME... I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING...

WHAT IS IT, LAVONNE?

I NEED BLOOD... YOURS!

PLEASE STOP ME!

LAVONNE! NO!!

MY LIFE WAS A WASTE! YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T TREATED ME LIKE DIRT!

BUT GEN-U-TECH CHANGED MY BODY AND MY MIND! MY MAIN IMPULSE... THE ONLY REASON I EXIST NOW...

...IS TO DRINK YOUR BLOOD! STOP ME!!

FIGHT IT, LAVONNE! I KNOW YOU CAN!

HUDSON TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU! I TRIED NOT TO BELIEVE IT, BUT I WANT TO HELP YOU!

TH-THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP ME... KILL ME!!

I TOLD YOU THAT I HAVE A HUNGER THAT'S HARD TO FILL... I'VE TRIED TO FIGHT IT ALL NIGHT, BUT I ALMOST BIT THAT KID I SAVED!

UHHHNNN

THE BLOOD LUST CONSUMES LAVONNE COMPLETELY AS HER FANGS SINK INTO BROADWAY'S NECK...

... JUST AS THE FIRST RAYS OF THE SUN FLUSH THE MORNING SKY...

I'M SORRY, LAVONNE--

AIIIEEEE

FFFSSSS

NIGHT CHANGES TO DAY AND A GARGOYLE TURNS TO STONE...

... CAUSING THE PAIR TO PLUMMET FROM THE SKY!

LANDING IN A NEGLECTED GREENHOUSE, THE TWO LOOK PEACEFUL FROM A DISTANCE...

... AND HAVING THAT SPECIAL THING TURN TO DUST!

THOUGH LAVONNE COULDN'T DRAW BLOOD FROM STONE...

YET, ONLY ONE IS TRULY AT PEACE...

THE OTHER WILL RISE AGAIN THAT NIGHT; IN ANGUISH FROM THE HOPE OF FINDING SOMETHING SPECIAL...

... SHE COULD DRAW TEARS FROM STONE!

NEXT MONTH: ANOTHER FEMME FATALE FACES THE GARGOYLES! PART HUMAN, PART GARGOYLE: VENUS in STONE!

WRITTEN IN STONE

HILDY MESNIK
Editor

c/o Marvel Entertainment Group 387 Park Avenue South New York, NY 10016
Please include your name, age, and address, though we will gladly withhold that information upon request.

LISA ZAMPELLA
Assistant Editor

Welcome to another classic issue of GARGOYLES! Letters are still pouring in on GARGOYLES #1 and #2 and so far the response has been overwhelmingly positive! Let's see what everybody has to say...

Dear Marvel Comics,

I loved GARGOYLES #1! Gargoyles is one of my two favorite TV shows (the other one being Darkwing Duck). I liked the cover because it was raised. Could you put out more issues a month? A month is quite a while to wait! Elisa is one of my favorite characters. Will there be more of her? Also, I'd like to see some of the actual TV episodes in the book. I also wish the book was thicker. I'm a huge fan!

Zehra Fazal, age 10
W. Lafayette, IN

You definitely *are* a fan, Zehra! So what you basically would like to see is a daily, 200-page GARGOYLES comic? We'd love to put out more issues and the way to see that happen is to have more people buy this comic (tell all your friends how great it is!). Then GARGOYLES might have as many titles as SPIDER-MAN or the X-MEN! And since you like DARKWING DUCK, we hope you've been following his adventures in Marvel's THE DISNEY AFTERNOON comic!

Dear Editor,

I'm twenty years of age and I'm quite into Disney's latest venture. GARGOYLES is quite an interesting attempt by Disney's television animation team to create a gothic atmosphere for a cartoon. In addition, *Star Trek*'s Jonathan Frakes as David Xanatos and Marina Sirtis as Demona, is quite a thing to behold.

When I picked up GARGOYLES #1, I just had to buy six copies strictly on the basis that Amanda Conner and Alberto Saichann did a heck of a job on the artwork; a rarity in TV comic adaptations. The comic could use more gritty reality, problems facing our modern society, and fatalities.

Charles E. Kusiak
Macomb, MI

Don't be fatalistic, Charles E., GARGOYLES' pages don't run red like some comics! Although we aren't miserly with the action, we like to keep the actual deaths to a minimum. That way, when they do happen, they make more of an impact and are more meaningful than just another number in the body count! Thanks for writing, Charles, and we're really pleased that you enjoy GARGOYLES so much!

Dear Written in Stone,

I am writing to let you know I am one of the many animators that brought life to the original Gargoyles TV series. Our staff of artists over at Walt Disney Studios Japan in Tokyo worked around the clock and felt we should be recognized in your superbly done comic.

Ironically, we at the studio are cut off from American comics and related media. I didn't know about the GARGOYLES comic until I visited my folks in Hawaii! What a pleasant and well done surprise! Gargoyles IS a very difficult series to capture in both art and mood, but your staff has done a commendable job.

I am shipping my copy of GARGOYLES to my fellow co-workers in Japan while I relax my nerves and soak up sun here in paradise. In the meantime, readers can write me (suggestions? comments?) at the address below. Look for my work in episodes 002, 004, 012 and 017! Again, keep up the great work!

Roy Sato
892 Kalanipuu Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

Thanks, Roy! It's quite an honor to get such a favorable critique on our GARGOYLES comic from one of the Disney animators! Roy, if you're still having trouble finding the GARGOYLES comic, you might want to consider subscribing. You'll find a form in this issue; simply fill it out, mail it in, and GARGOYLES comic arrives on your doorstep every month! For our fans under 18 considering a subscription, check with a parent or adult first!

Dear Hildy,

Disney has outdone itself big time with Gargoyles; the first noir funny animal crimebusters to carry the Disney name and ready to be even darker knights than a certain caped crusader. I've hardly been able to see the show (I have a job), so the comics have been a godsend.

It's clear that this comic series follows the first season episodes in terms of continuity, but it would be nice to do some adaptations to help some of us working-stiff fans catch up.

On to GARGOYLES #2. Human gargoyles? Oh, please! LaVonne deserves a better fate than this! Dracon is definitely not playing with a full deck if he wants his own 'goyles.

Artistically, Amanda Conner deserves just due. I loved her work on Soulsearchers & Co., and I remember her earlier work. ROCK VIDEO GIRLS may be a tempting treat!

Jacob Gilbert
Troy, NY

We'll probably steer clear of doing adaptations from the TV series (unless everyone DEMANDS it!), since they'll soon be available on video. And as you found out, LaVonne didn't quite become a gargoyle! And Amanda's ROCK VIDEO GIRLS, written by Mike (BEAVIS & BUTTHEAD) Lackey, is a hoot and out in July.

To the creators of GARGOYLES,

I am a 21-year-old woman who never really had an interest in comic books, until now. While watching Batman: The Animated Series one afternoon with my boyfriend, we saw a commercial for the Gargoyles TV series. Since that commercial, I have been hooked. I ran across the comic in a local store one evening, bought it for him, and kept it for myself.

I would like the creators of GARGOYLES to know how much I admire them. These people have brought to life a clan of mythical creatures and made me a believer. The skillful artistry and writing techniques have placed me among the adventures of the Gargoyles. I actually get lost in the reading and imagine that I am there. The television series brought me into this marvelous realm and I am very grateful! Thank you for giving me something to look forward to every Friday and every month. I am glad it won't be long until I can place myself among the wonderful undertakings of Lex, Hudson, Broadway, Brooklyn, Bronx (can't forget the cute puppy), and into the dashing arms of Goliath. Thank you.

Wendy D. Arterburn
Ibelin, NJ

We appreciate your kind words, Wendy, and we hope your boyfriend got to read the comic! By now you probably know that starting this fall, Gargoyles will be on TV every weekday!

Dear Creators of GARGOYLES,

I haven't collected comics since the age of twelve but recently started again. Well! Many things have changed and they decide what I do and don't buy. First of all, all this crossover business drives me crazy! I don't know where to start with a purchase. It infuriates me to get a book, then have to go purchase five or more of a totally different series.

When I saw GARGOYLES #1, the first thing I thought was "what outstanding cover colors (purple, yeah!)!" It also has a nice raised texture which is real classy and doesn't detract from the artwork like some foil-type covers do. As I didn't notice any "cross-over" elements, I bought it ... and loved it! The artwork was magnificent and the story original. I know I'm dwelling on the colors, but they really impressed me. Elisa is a great female heroine ... She's gutsy and feminine and has a very "fit" look to her. I look forward to the next issue! Thanks for providing such a visually captivating book!

Dee Fritts, age 24
Kerrville, TX

Glad to hear you're back in a comic-collecting mode, Dee. Color is an important, if overlooked, part of comics and we'll pass on your kudos to colorist Greg Wright!

Next Month:
VENUS IN STONE